

GODMAN, B. GRAY, D. GRIFFIN, P. HOGG, Revd. G. K. McCULLOCH, C. F. MANN, P. J. OLIVER, J. G. PARKER, R. E. F. PEAL, E. M. RAYNOR, Dr. C. G. STACK, S. A. H. STATHAM, K. V. THOMPSON, C. E. WHEELER, Lieut.-Col. T. C. WHITE and M. W. WOODCOCK.

Guests present were: E. J. BACK, Mrs. J. D. BACK, Miss M. BARRY, Mrs. G. BEVEN, D. BRADLEY, Dr. JUDITH A. COLES, A. C. ELEY, Miss K. FRANCIS, J. KING, Mrs. I. McCULLOCH, Mrs. C. F. MANN, Mrs. P. J. OLIVER, Miss M. SAUNDERS, and Mrs. B. J. WOODCOCK.

Mr. C. F. Mann gave an address on "Forest Birds in Kenya", illustrated with colour slides of many of the bird species inhabiting Kenya forests, which was much appreciated.

The forest avifaunae of Kenya were considered in four sections; West, Central, Coast and Isolates. Comparisons were made between these areas and some attempt was made to show the affinities between them. The effect of altitude on distribution was also discussed. Speculation was made on the origins of the forest avifaunae, contrasting the late R. E. Moreau's 'pluvial theory' with more recent pollen analysis studies, which suggest that the forested areas of tropical Africa may never have been much greater in the past than they are today. Resistance to arthropod-borne diseases was suggested as a possible factor in altitudinal distribution.

## Last record of the Cebu Island subspecies of the Orange-bellied Flowerpecker

### *Dicaeum trigonostigma pallidius*

by Dorothy M. Richardson and Allan J. Baker

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The Cebu Island subspecies of the Orange-breasted Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum trigonostigma pallidius*, is now believed to be extinct. Salomonsen (1967) lists as the last record of this taxon a specimen collected on Cebu Island in 1906. According to Rabor (1959) this specimen was collected by R. C. McGregor. However, the Royal Ontario Museum collection contains a skin collected by J. J. Mounsey (JJM 514) at Camp Ialiti, Cebu Island, on 26 July 1910 (data from original field collector's label).

The Royal Ontario Museum specimen (ROM 56154) is greyish-blue above, and although the mantle feathers are not well preserved, two have bright orange distal ends, characteristic of *D. trigonostigma* (Sharpe 1885). The underparts are almost uniform pale yellow except for a brighter yellow suffusion on the upper breast feathers. These features distinguish the specimen from *D. t. dorsale*, which is endemic to the neighbouring islands of Masbate, Panay and Negros. The latter is much darker blue above and brighter yellow below (Delacour & Mayr 1946, du Pont 1971) and the breast is bright orange (Bourns & Worcester 1894). Immature males of *D. t. dorsale* have streaks of orange on the breast (Bourns & Worcester 1894), ruling out the possibility that Mounsey's specimen was a vagrant from neighbouring islands.

There is evidence that Mounsey was indeed collecting on Cebu in 1909-10, although Rabor (1959) claims that no serious collecting was done there between 1906 and 1947. The skin discussed above was originally part of J. H. Fleming's collection (JHF 24408), now in the Royal Ontario Museum. That collection had "some six hundred and twenty-five skins from the Philippines . . . collected between 18 April 1909 and 21 November 1910, by J. J. Mounsey, an engineer. It appears that the places visited by him were

Mindoro, Luzon, Samar, Leyte, Cebu and Mindanao" (Hachisuka 1931). The Royal Ontario Museum has 7 birds of the genus *Dicaeum* collected by Mounsey between 1 May 1909 and 12 October 1910. One, *Dicaeum a. australe*, was also collected at Camp Ialiti, Cebu, but on 24 July 1910. We conclude that *D. trigonostigma pallidius* was extant on Cebu Island until at least July of 1910.

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## Specimens of extinct, endangered or rare birds in the Merseyside County Museums, Liverpool

by C. T. Fisher

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This inventory covers specimens of extinct, endangered or rare bird taxa held by the Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Merseyside County Museums.

Two major collections form the nucleus of these holdings. That of Lord Edward Smith Stanley, later XIIIth Earl of Derby, was bequeathed to the City of Liverpool in 1851 and was the foundation of the present institution. Canon H. B. Tristram's first collection was sold to the museum in 1896, whilst his second went to the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia in 1906. Most Derby and Tristram material is reasonably well documented and the former is also supported by archival records held in the Merseyside County Museums, the City of Liverpool Library or at Knowsley Hall, Liverpool. An account of many of the type specimens included in these collections has been published by Wagstaffe (1978).

The criterion for inclusion of a taxon in the present list is mention by King (1978-1979), Fisher *et al.* (1969) or Greenway (1967), while the recognition of a taxon as extinct follows Greenway (1967) and Morony *et al.* (1975).

#### NOTATION

Unless otherwise indicated, each specimen is adult and in the form of a cabinet skin. The order and nomenclature of Peters (1931-1970) is followed